

ACR 158: DNA AWARENESS MONTH

Assemblywoman Fran Pavley

IN BRIEF

ACR 158 designates the month of September as DNA Awareness Month.

THE ISSUE

DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensure accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system. DNA analysis has been proven to be a powerful and effective tool in the fight against crime, not only to convict the guilty but to also clear suspects and exonerate persons mistakenly accused or convicted of crimes.

EXISTING LAW

To increase the use of DNA technology in the criminal justice system, President Bush announced a 5-year, more than \$1 billion initiative to improve the use of DNA in the criminal justice system on March 11, 2003. This initiative, Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology, calls for increased funding, training, and assistance—to federal, state, and local forensic labs; to police; to medical professionals; to victim service providers; and to prosecutors, defense lawyers, and judges to ensure that this technology reaches its full potential to solve crimes, protect the innocent, and identify missing persons.

Since 2002 the city and county of Los Angeles has marked September as DNA Awareness month. During the month the city and county host an educational forum to raise the awareness and understanding of the science of DNA.

THE SOLUTION

ACR 158 designates the month of September as DNA Awareness Month. ACR 158 recognizes the 2003 Presidential initiative- Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology- and the efforts of the city and county of Los Angeles to raise the

awareness of the positive impact that DNA continues to have in law enforcement.

AUTHOR'S STATEMENT

To continue the mission to raise awareness and provide DNA education, the time has come to expand DNA Awareness Month throughout California.

SUPPORT

The Los Angeles County District Attorney, Steve Cooley (Sponsor)
Los Angeles County Public Defender, Michael P. Judge
Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Coordinating Council (LACSAC)
California Forensic Science Institute (CFSI)
Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW)
California Commission Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)
Bruce Harrington, Real Estate Developer
California Sexual Assault Investigators Association (CSAIA)
Rape Treatment Center (RTC)
Los Angeles County Police
Chiefs Association Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County (POALAC)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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